



Lesson #2

**Before Reading the Bible:
Connecting with the Holy Spirit**

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To gain understanding, when reading the bible, it's important to pray for guidance before you begin. This step cannot be bypassed. All things of a spiritual nature are spiritually discerned. Without the Holy Spirit, it will be difficult to grasp the valuable messages that the bible holds.

What does it say in 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (KJV)? _____

By the Holy Spirit, God gives understanding to those who are looking for truth. Before the Holy Spirit was given to the followers of Jesus, in the early days, they had a hard time understanding the messages and parables that Jesus shared with them.

How did things change for the followers of Jesus, when they received the Holy Spirit/Holy Ghost? Read John 14:26 (KJV)

In order to receive the Holy Spirit, your heart should be in the right place. As you read the inspired word of God, you must have some degree of faith. The Bible is compiled with information and lessons, written by men of old, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. None of us were alive in those days to see the process taking place, but it is our faith that compels us to believe what is written.

What did the apostle John say concerning those who understand their writings? Read 1 John 4:6 (KJV)

There is no shortage of people who choose not to believe what is written in the bible. They don't understand that the Bible is not a book designed to explain the mysteries of life. Instead, it is a book containing moral lessons, a map to salvation, and the revelation of who God is. All of these aspects were fulfilled Christ and have been recorded in the books of the gospel; the life and teachings of Christ.

Read Romans 1:16-17 (KJV)

Naturally, not everyone who sets out to read the bible will be on the same spiritual level. There are people who are opening the bible for the first time now and others who have grown up hearing about certain bible texts, but have never had time to read the whole bible for themselves. There are also folks who have read the bible through, but are now looking to obtain a greater understanding of what is being conveyed on the pages. This is no problem; the Holy Spirit will meet each reader where they are in their spiritual walk with God. Each time you read the bible, more and more will be opened up to you. The more time you spend reading or listening to the bible, the more your faith will grow and the deeper your connection with God will become.

Read Isaiah 28:10-11 (KJV)

Again, if you do not approach the scriptures with a sincere heart, the word will not yield understanding, instead confusion will set in.

What does the bible say was the result of God's word to those who turned their backs on God in Israel? Read Isaiah 28:13 and Hebrews 4:2 (KJV) _____

Understanding the word of God has been the desire of men and women for generations upon generations.

What did the apostle Paul pray for concerning those who followed his ministry? Read Ephesians 1:16-18 (KJV)

It is our firm belief that when you have the tools and resources to read the bible for yourself, your life will change. You will not be chained to any particular system of belief, because the Word of God will be your guide to understanding.

